

PATENT

REMARKS

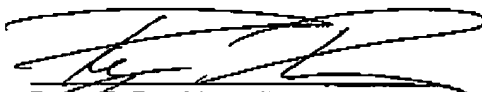
In this response, claim 46 has been amended to recite the additional features of allowable claim 57 and claims 38-40 and 58 have been amended to improve their consistency and to correct various informalities. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11-17, 25-36 and 59-69 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

The Advisory Action identifies claims 37-45 as allowable and claims 57 and 58 as objected to but allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of any intervening claims. In an effort to advance the present application to issuance, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11-17, 25-36 and 59-69 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and independent claim 46 has been amended to recite the additional features of allowable claim 57. Independent claim 46 and its dependent claims therefore should be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 57 is allowable. In view of the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable at least for the reasons provided in the Final Office Action and the Advisory Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections therefore is respectfully requested.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

23 November 2005
Date


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